

West Virginia Archives & History NEWS

VOLUME V, No. 8 OCTOBER 2004



WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

From the Editor:

Sometimes we find the best information entirely by mistake or happenstance. I find this occurs most often when I am looking for an obituary or other article in old newspapers on microfilm. Like most researchers I meet in the Archives and History Library, I find it difficult to concentrate on the specific goal of my search when I delve into an old newspaper, the older the better. I am sidetracked by the miracle cures of patent medicines, snide or fawning social notes, and contemporary reports of the news of the day that have become today's important milestones of history. For more suggestions on using newspapers in family history research, see the March 2001 issue of *West Virginia Archives and History News* at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/0301news.pdf>. (By the way, all of the articles posted on the *Humor Mill* portion of our Web site, <http://www.wvculture.org/history/humor24.jpg>, were found while researchers were looking for obituaries.)

Mining Your History Foundation Annual Meeting and Workshops

Mining Your History Foundation (MYHF) will hold its Annual Meeting and Workshops on Saturday, November 13, 2004, in The Cultural Center, Charleston, West Virginia. You need not be a MYHF member to participate. MYHF was formed to help connect the many societies across the state, and to serve as a "Friends of the Library" group in support of the West Virginia Archives and History Library. By means of various fundraisers, the Foundation has purchased and donated to the Library many resources, including the 1930 United States Census microfilm rolls for West Virginia, replacements for old and/or damaged county records microfilm rolls, and records on microfilm or transcribed in book form for West Virginia counties and surrounding states.

The Annual Meeting and Workshops registration fee is \$10.00 per person. The day consists of a morning and an afternoon workshop,

the annual meeting of MYHF (open to all attendees) during lunch, plus a Question and Answer session on family history resources, problem-solving and research techniques. Questions about Family Tree Maker may be submitted in advance on the registration form, and will be answered during the Q & A session.

You may order a lunch of pizza, chips, cookies and soft drinks for an extra \$5.00 with your registration, or you may bring your own. Registration forms may be picked up in the Archives and History Library or downloaded from the Internet at

Continued on the next page

Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Archives and History Library* opens
9:30 a.m.	Registration
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Saving Images Into Your Computer and Importing Images into Your Genealogy Program, a workshop conducted by Jim Miracle
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting and Lunch (all invited)
1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Demonstration of Scanning of Photographs and Documents, a workshop led by Jim Miracle with the assistance of other MYHF members
2:30 p.m.-??	Questions and Answers, with the knowledgeable members of MYHF
5:00 p.m.	Archives and History Library closes

*Research throughout the day in the Library

Continued from page 1

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~myhf/2004workshop.html>, or from a link on the Archives and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org/history/whatsnew.html>. Payment should be enclosed with the form.

MYHF co-sponsors West Virginia History Day at the Legislature, scheduled for Thursday, March 17 in 2005, as well as the immensely popular Hoot Owl Research nights in the Archives and History Library. Membership dues are \$15.00 for individuals and for organizations. Members receive the MYHF newsletter four times a year. Correspondence, membership applications or Annual Meeting and Workshops registration forms should be mailed to: MYHF, P. O. Box 6923, Charleston, WV 25362-0923. You may also contact Wes Cochran, MYHF President, by phone at (304) 422-1774, or by e-mail at wescochran@juno.com, for further information.

Front Entrance of The Cultural Center to be Closed October 19

The front entrance of The Cultural Center will be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 19, for delivery of escalators that will be installed as part of the renovation of the West Virginia State Museum. Visitors to The Cultural Center will be directed to the back entrance, which is located at the loading dock, down the driveway ramp on the west side (rear) of the building. The Archives and History Library and the West Virginia Library Commission Library will be open. Access to the Great Hall, West Virginia State Theater, lobby gallery and main public restrooms will be restricted. The front entrance will reopen for the

Continued on page 3

Library Sending Bindery Order this Month

The Archives and History Library usually sends a shipment of books and manuscripts to a professional bindery twice a year. We will be shipping the next order on October 18. A list of titles sent to the bindery will be available at both Library desks for your reference. If you can not locate a specific work on the shelf, the staff can check the list to see if the book is temporarily unavailable. Books are usually returned from the bindery in a couple of weeks, and are back on the Library

shelves within a month of the original shipment date. If a title you need is in the bindery order, check back with the Library in mid-November. You will also find the New Book Shelves overflowing with books that were received as unbound manuscripts and could not be made available for public use until bound. We appreciate your patience while much-used materials are placed in sturdy hard bindings to preserve their availability to library patrons for years to come.

New Titles

Ohio Cemeteries, 1803-2003: K. Roger Troutman, 2003. [Note: This book does not list individual names. This is a directory by county of cemeteries located in Ohio, with each entry including location, driving directions and other information.]

A History of Pendleton County West Virginia: Oren F. Morton, 2004, 1910.
Frontiersmen ESOP: Inez Orlor, 1984. [Note: History of Weirton, WV, and of Weirton Steel.]

Led by the River: The Story of My Father's Towboating Days: Marjorie Byrnside Burress, 1993.

My Story (and I'm Sticking to It): Alex Hawkins, 1989.

The Early Cheat Mountain Iron Works: James R. Moreland, [1992?], 1940.

A History of Pleasants County, West Virginia: Robert L. Pemberton, 2002, 1929.

Directory of National Park Historians: National Park Service (U.S.) History Division, 1999.

Jewels in Our Crown: The State Parks of West Virginia: Maureen F. Crockett, 2004.

Records from Johnson Co., Kentucky, 1850: Charles C. Wells, 1976.

Virginia Court Records in Southwestern Pennsylvania: Records of the District of West Augusta and Ohio and Yohogania Counties, Virginia, 1775-1780: Boyd Crumrine, 2001, 1901. [Note: Consolidated edition with an index by Inez Waldenmaier.]

Permission to reprint articles from

West Virginia Archives and History News is granted, provided:

(1) The reprint is not used for commercial purposes, and (2) the following notice appears at the end of the reprinted material: Previously published in *West Virginia Archives and History News*, [Volume and issue numbers], [Month, Year], a publication of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

Continued from page 2

Civil War Scholars Lecture Series, which is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. in the West Virginia State Theater. For more information, call The Cultural Center at (304) 558-0162, or Archives and History at (304) 558-0230.

Donations

Shirley Parsons of Charleston continues to bring in yearbooks, history books and other relevant West Virginia materials that she picks up from yard sales and flea markets. **John Lilly**, editor of *Goldenseal* magazine, has passed on many books submitted to him for possible review in the magazine that are valuable additions to the Archives and History Library collection.

While donating books to the Library is certainly far easier for our regular walk-in patrons, those of you who seldom or never visit The Cultural Center will find it less expensive to send donations by "Media Mail," the term now used for the old "Book Rate." Check with your local post office to see if the box or envelope will need to be inspected by postal employees before it is taped shut. In today's world of increased security concerns, packages marked "Media Mail" may be regarded by some post offices as suspect if not inspected.

Free Film Series at The Cultural Center

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History's free film series, which began on October 9 with *The Phantom of the Opera*, continues at The Cultural Center on November 26, 27, and 28. For more information about the series, call (304) 558-0162 or visit the Division Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org>.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History Initiates Lecture Series

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH), parent agency of the Archives and History section, has developed a series of lectures on topics relevant to the varied aspects of the history and culture of West Virginia. All lectures are scheduled for the State Theater in The Cultural Center in Charleston. You will find them noted in the

Calendar of Events included in this newsletter, and on the Division of Culture and History Web site at <http://www.wvculture.org>. October, Archaeology Month, features that topic, and March, History Month, will focus on our special field. Watch *Archives and History News* for announcements of speakers and dates.



The West Virginia Division of ^{all} Culture and History seeks to expand its African American and Native American resources.

Do you have West Virginia...

African American and Native American

- Photographs • Documents • Books
- Letters • Postcards for the West Virginia State Archives?

Contact Fredrick Armstrong at 304.558.0230, ext. 164, or fharmstrong@wvculture.org

African American and Native American

- Artifacts for the West Virginia State Museum Collection?

Contact Stan Bumgardner at 304.558.0220, ext. 121, or stanley.bumgardner@wvculture.org

African American and Native American

- Writers and story ideas for GOLDENSEAL magazine?

Contact John Lilly at 304.558.0220, ext. 135, or john.lilly@wvculture.org

African American and Native American

- Historic sites or buildings for possible nomination to the National Register of Historic Places?

Contact Alan Rowe at 304.558.0240, ext. 712, or alan.rowe@wvculture.org

WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF CULTURE AND HISTORY
 The Cultural Center, State Capitol Complex
 1900 Kanawha Blvd., E., Charleston
 West Virginia 25305-0300
www.wvculture.org

EEO/AA Employer

Border Confusion

We in the Archives and History Library have always been aware that folks living along borderlines, whether it be a state boundary or a county one, sometimes are uncertain just where they are located geographically. We have seen “fluctuations” in borders between Kanawha, Raleigh and Fayette Counties in the Cabin Creek area any number of times, by observing the counties chosen by some residents to register births and deaths over the years. While searching for a totally unrelated death notice, I found information providing evidence of such mistakes.

I first saw a brief note in the *Monroe Watchman*, December 14, 1893: *The Independent Herald* says that a survey along Wallow Hole mountain ordered by Summers County Court develops that 29 families who supposed that they were citizens of Greenbrier county are really living in Summers County. I tried to follow up in the *Independent Herald*, but since we do not have that year in our collection nor any other Summers County newspapers from that year, I tried a Greenbrier County newspaper, the *Greenbrier Independent*.

In hopes of finding what had caused the survey to be ordered, I skimmed a few weeks preceding December 14. While I did not see anything specific about Summers County ordering a survey, I think I found the reason in an article titled “Voting Precincts” in the *Greenbrier Independent*, November 16, 1893: *The last Legislature passed a law requiring every voter to vote at a certain precinct, and requiring the County Courts to divide the several districts into voting precincts, clearly defining the boundaries of each precinct. Our County Court will do this work at the January term. The Court appointed several gentlemen to undertake this*

task. Presumably all the counties in West Virginia were taking similar measures.

Subsequently in the *Greenbrier Independent*, December 14, 1893 issue, a brief article appeared with the heading “County Line in Dispute”: *The County Court at a former term learning that there was some misunderstanding as to where the dividing line between Summers and Greenbrier counties is located, entered an order directing County Surveyor John E. Harvey to run the line between the two counties, or that part of the line which*

is in dispute. Mr. Harvey went last week to a point on the Wallow Hole Mountain to begin his work. He ran the line for about ten miles, and the result of his surveying was that twenty-nine families, who had claimed their residence in Greenbrier, found themselves on the Summers side of the line.

The moral of this story: If your family lived near a county border, and you can not find them in the records of the county where they are supposed to have lived, check the other county’s records, too!

The Importance of Local History

Thomas D. Clark, Kentucky’s first Historian Laureate, is much admired by both this Editor, a native Kentuckian, and your State Historian, Fredrick H. Armstrong. Although born and raised in Mississippi, Clark came to the University of Kentucky as a graduate student and never left, adopting Kentucky and its history with an unmatched passion. As quoted in an article in the Summer 2004 issue of *The Southern Register*, Clark, who taught history at UK for over 50 years, has said, “There are historians who say state history has no significance and is a local, anecdotal thing. This is wrong, wrong, wrong. That is where the people live. Local history gives readers a sense of time and place. Students need to know how their communities

evolved.” Clark is also well-known in Kentucky for rescuing public records on their way to the dump or incinerator, and for aiding in the establishment of the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, as well as the Kentucky History Center and Museum. We hope Clark’s words of wisdom and example of civic leadership (still going strong at 101 years old) will reinforce the determination of our West Virginia local historians and preservationists, and will broaden the view of those both inside and outside our state who underestimate the value of studying and teaching the history and culture of the hills, hollows and small towns that nurtured the majority of our citizens.

The Archives Needs Volunteers

Whether you have a few hours a week, one day a month, or just one vacation day per year that you would like to spend with us in the West Virginia State Archives, give us a call. We have all kinds of projects just waiting for **YOU!**

Calendar of Events

Please check our web site (<http://www.wvculture.org/history>)
for genealogical and historical society meeting announcements,
and for more complete information on activities listed below.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE MUSEUM CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS

The Cultural Center, Charleston.
Reopening date will be announced at a later time.

COLUMBUS DAY, October 11: Archives Library will be open.*

“THE UNION CAVALRY COMES OF AGE,” October 19: Eric J. Wittenberg, speaker,
Kanawha Civil War Roundtable lecture, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INSTITUTE, October 19-20: Logan.

“TEN MILLENNIA OF HUMAN OCCUPATION IN THE KANAWHA VALLEY: ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE MARMET LOCK REPLACEMENT PROJECT,”

October 20: Mike Anslinger, speaker, WVDCH Lecture Series (Archaeology),
The Cultural Center, Charleston.

McCREIGHT LECTURE, October 28: Charles Ogletree, speaker,
West Virginia Humanities Council Annual Betsy McCreight Lecture, Institute.

ELECTION DAY, November 2: Archives Library will be open.*

“AMERICAN INDIANS TODAY,” November 6:
Dr. Richard L. Allen, speaker, The Cultural Center, Charleston.

“APPALACHIAN FOLK MUSIC AND TUNES,” November 10:
Joe Dobbs, WVDCH Lecture Series (Music), The Cultural Center, Charleston.

VETERANS DAY, November 11: Archives Library will be open.*

**MINING YOUR HISTORY FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKSHOPS,
November 13,** The Cultural Center, Charleston.

THANKSGIVING DAY, November 25: Archives Library will be closed.

FRIDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING, November 26: Archives Library will be open*

SATURDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING, November 27: Archives Library will be open*

“ANTIQUES AS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS,” December 8:
Jim Mitchell, WVDCH Lecture Series (Museum), The Cultural Center, Charleston.

**Only the Archives Library will be staffed--all other Archives offices will be closed.*
The West Virginia Library Commission Library in the Cultural Center
is closed weekends and all holidays.

West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 The Cultural Center
 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
 Charleston, WV 25305-0300

West Virginia
Archives & History
NEWS



We would love to hear from you.

Let us know what you find helpful in the newsletter, and what new topics you would like covered.

Contact *West Virginia Archives and History News* Editor Susan Scouras, (304) 558-0230, Ext. 742, or by e-mail: susan.scouras@wvculture.org.

Archives and History Staff

Fredrick Armstrong Director
Debra Basham Archivist (photographs, special collections)
Constance Baston Researcher (Veterans Memorial Archives)
Greg Carroll Historian (Civil War, Native American history)
Dick Fauss Archivist (microfilm and moving images collection)
Allen Fowler Special projects
Elaine Gates Library Assistant (microfilming and microfilm repairs)
Joe Geiger Assistant Director (Historian, Web page)
Ed Hicks Photographer (archival photography, darkroom)
Mary Johnson Historian (*West Virginia History*)
Terry Lowry Library Assistant (Civil War)
Cathy Miller Library Assistant (WV State documents, periodicals)
Sharon Newhouse Secretary
Harold Newman Library Assistant (microfilming, Revolutionary War)
Pat Pleska Manager of the Veterans Memorial Archives
Susan Scouras Librarian (cataloging, Kentucky, library collection, newsletter editor)
Jaime Simmons Library Assistant (records of the 1700's and early 1800's, Pennsylvania)
Bobby Taylor Library Manager
Nancy Waggoner Secretary
Volunteers Carolyn Conner, Bill Kelley, Angela Tolbert, Bob and Lucile Foster, John McClure, Carol de la Riva, Lorene Mullins, and Kellis and Virginia Gillespie

This newsletter is a publication of : The West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 Troy O. Body, Commissioner